

Amendments to the Drawings:

With respect to item **375**, Applicant respectfully submits that the “**package tracking number 375**” is shown in both Fig. 6 and Fig. 8B. For clarification, Applicant has amended paragraph [0063] in the specification to provide clear reference to item **375** in the drawings.

With respect to item **380**, Applicant has also amended paragraph [0063] in the specification by deleting item **380**.

With respect to item **430**, please replace Fig. 6 of the original application with amended Fig. 6 in the Appendix.

With respect to item **550**, please replace Figs. 8A-B of the original application with amended Fig. 8A-B in the Appendix.

With respect to items in the **600** series, please replace Fig. 9 of the original application with amended Fig. 9 in the Appendix.

With respect to item **735**, please replace Fig. 10 of the original application with amended Fig. 10 in the Appendix.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This correspondence is filed in response to the Office Action dated September 23, 2005. Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's thorough examination of the application as evidenced by the Office Action. In response to the Office Action, Applicant has corrected the informalities in the drawings and specification. In addition, Applicant has amended the claims to cure the informalities, and further, to clarify the present application. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 11, 12, as amended, are patentable. As such, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present claims in light of the following remarks.

101 rejection

It is respectfully requested that the 101 rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn in light of the recent decision In re Lundgren and the interim guidelines for examination of patent applications for subject matter eligibility.

102(e) rejection

Claims 1, 11 were rejected as being anticipated by *Hauser* (US Patent No. 5,536,659). In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that *Hauser* discloses, among other things, "a package tracking number" as recited in Claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees because either the "Return Merchandise Authorization number" or the "bar code tag" as the Examiner pointed out in *Hauser* is clearly distinct from the "package tracking number" of the present application. As described in the specification, paragraph 63, a package tracking number 375 is assigned to identify a return transaction and "when the package is shipped, the parties to the transaction can track the progress of the package through the carrier system using the package tracking number 375". Different from the package tracking number, neither the "Return Merchandise Authorization number" nor the "bar code tag" in *Hauser* provides an ability of tracking returned merchandise during shipment by a carrier. Given this significant distinction, Applicant

respectfully submits that *Hauser* does not disclose the element of "package tracking number" as included in Claims 1 and 11 and thus does not anticipate these claims.

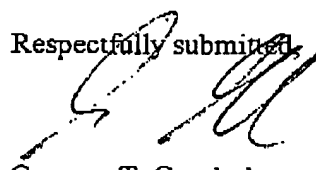
103 rejection

The Examiner rejected Claim 12 as being unpatentable over *Hauser* in view of Caminti, Alan, Lyons, Cheryl, United Parcel Service Introduces Advanced Label Imaging System, published by Business Wire on 29 November 2005, sec. 1, page 1 ("ALIS Press Release"). Because Claim 12 is dependent from Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that *Hauser* does not anticipate Claim 12 for the foregoing reasons. Further, it is respectfully submitted that even assuming *Hauser* and the ALIS Press Release are combinable, the combined teachings do not disclose all claimed features in Claim 12, such as the package tracking number, saving shipping labels in a carrier server, etc. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 12 is obvious over *Hauser* in view of the ALIS Press Release.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the present Claims 1, 11, 12 are in condition for immediate allowance. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner issue a notice of allowance of the present claims.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,


Gregory T. Gronholm
Registration No. 32,415

App No.: 10/098,634
Amdt. dated 12/21/2005
Amendment

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Atlanta Office (404) 881-7000
Fax Atlanta Office (404) 881-7777

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 10, 2005

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.

David N. Alston 10-21-2005
Date

"Express Mail" mailing label number
Date of Deposit October 10, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to:
Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

App. NO.: 10/098,634

Amdt. dated 12/21/2005

Amendment

Appendix

This **Appendix** includes amended drawing figures Fig. 6, Fig. 8A, Fig. 8B, Fig. 9 and Fig. 10.